

# **Washington State Auditor's Office**

## **Audit Report**

### **Audit Services**

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Report No. 60326

#### **COLUMBIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Columbia County, Washington

January 1, 1995 Through December 31, 1997

Issue Date: July 2, 1999

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**COLUMBIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Columbia County, Washington**  
**January 1, 1995 Through December 31, 1997**

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**Independent Auditor's Report On Compliance With Laws And Regulations  
At The Financial Statement Level (Plus Additional State Compliance  
Requirements Per RCW 43.09.260)**

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Board of Supervisors  
Columbia County Conservation District  
Dayton, Washington

We have audited the financial statements, as listed in the table of contents, of the Columbia County Conservation District, Columbia County, Washington, as of and for the years ended December 31, 1997, 1996 and 1995, and have issued our report thereon dated December 2, 1998.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

Compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to the Columbia County Conservation District is the responsibility of the District's management. As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of the District's compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants.

We also performed additional tests of compliance with state laws and regulations as required by *Revised Code of Washington* (RCW) 43.09.260. This statute requires the State Auditor to inquire as to whether the District complied with the laws and the *Constitution of the State of Washington*, its own ordinances and orders, and the requirements of the State Auditor's Office. Our responsibility is to examine, on a test basis, evidence about the District's compliance with those requirements and to make a reasonable effort to identify any instances of misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office on the part of any public officer or employee and to report any such instance to the management of the District and to the Attorney General. However, the objective of our audit of the financial statements was not to provide an opinion on overall compliance with these provisions. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported herein under *Government Auditing Standards*.

This report is intended for the information of management and the Board of Supervisors and to meet our statutory reporting obligations. This report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. It also serves to disseminate information to the public as a reporting tool to help citizens assess government operations.

**BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM**  
STATE AUDITOR

December 2, 1998

**COLUMBIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Columbia County, Washington**  
**January 1, 1995 Through December 31, 1997**

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**Independent Auditor's Report On Internal Control Structure**  
**At The Financial Statement Level**

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Board of Supervisors  
Columbia County Conservation District  
Dayton, Washington

We have audited the financial statements of the Columbia County Conservation District, Columbia County, Washington, as of and for the years ended December 31, 1997, 1996 and 1995, and have issued our report thereon dated December 2, 1998.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

The management of the District is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of internal control structure policies and procedures. The objectives of an internal control structure are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with the prescribed basis of accounting. Because of inherent limitations in any internal control structure, errors or irregularities may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of the structure to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of the design and operation of policies and procedures may deteriorate.

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the District, we obtained an understanding of the internal control structure. With respect to the internal control structure, we obtained an understanding of the design of relevant policies and procedures and whether they have been placed in operation, and we assessed control risk in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide an opinion on the internal control structure. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Our consideration of the internal control structure would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control structure that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the entity's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the specific internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors or irregularities in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of

performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control structure and its operations that we consider to be material weaknesses as defined above.

This report is intended for the information of management and the Board of Supervisors and to meet our statutory reporting obligations. This report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. It also serves to disseminate information to the public as a reporting tool to help citizens assess government operations.

**BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM**  
STATE AUDITOR

December 2, 1998

**COLUMBIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Columbia County, Washington**  
**January 1, 1995 Through December 31, 1997**

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**Independent Auditor's Report On Financial Statements**

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Board of Supervisors  
Columbia County Conservation District  
Dayton, Washington

We have audited the accompanying statements of Fund Resources and Uses Arising from Cash Transactions of the General Fund of the Columbia County Conservation District, Columbia County, Washington, for the years ended December 31, 1997, 1996 and 1995. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatements. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the District prepares its financial statements on the cash basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with Washington State statutes and the *Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting System* (BARS) manual prescribed by the State Auditor, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the recognized revenues and expenditures of the funds of the Columbia County Conservation District for the years ended December 31, 1997, 1996 and 1995, on the cash basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated December 2, 1998, on our consideration of the District's internal control structure and a report dated December 2, 1998, on its compliance with laws and regulations.

**BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM**  
STATE AUDITOR

December 2, 1998

**COLUMBIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Columbia County, Washington**  
**January 1, 1995 Through December 31, 1997**

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**Independent Auditor's Report On Supplementary Information**  
**Schedule Of Federal Financial Assistance**

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Board of Supervisors  
Columbia County Conservation District  
Dayton, Washington

We have audited the financial statements of the Columbia County Conservation District, Columbia County, Washington, as of and for the years ended December 31, 1997, 1996 and 1995, and have issued our report thereon dated December 2, 1998. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements of the Columbia County Conservation District taken as a whole. The accompanying Schedules of Federal Financial Assistance are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. The information in the schedules has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

**BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM**  
STATE AUDITOR

December 2, 1998



**COLUMBIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Columbia County, Washington**  
**January 1, 1995 Through December 31, 1997**

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**Independent Auditor's Report On Compliance With The General Requirements  
Applicable To Federal Financial Assistance Programs**

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Board of Supervisors  
Columbia County Conservation District  
Dayton, Washington

We have audited the financial statements of the Columbia County Conservation District, Columbia County, Washington, as of and for the years ended December 31, 1997, 1996 and 1995, and have issued our report thereon dated December 2, 1998.

We have applied procedures to test the District's compliance with the following requirements applicable to its federal financial assistance programs, which are identified in the Schedules of Federal Financial Assistance, for the years ended December 31, 1997, 1996 and 1995:

- Political activity
- Civil rights
- Federal financial reports
- Allowable costs/cost principles

The following requirements were determined to be not applicable to its federal financial assistance programs:

- Davis-Bacon Act
- Cash management
- Relocation assistance and real property acquisition
- Drug-Free Workplace Act
- Administrative requirements, including subrecipient monitoring

Our procedures were limited to the applicable procedures described in the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) *Compliance Supplement for Single Audits of State and Local Governments* or alternative procedures. Our procedures were substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion on the District's compliance with the requirements listed in the preceding paragraph. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

With respect to the items tested, the results of those procedures disclosed no material instances of noncompliance with the requirements listed in the second paragraph of this report. With respect to items not tested, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the District had not complied, in all material respects, with those requirements.

This report is intended for the information of management and the Board of Supervisors and to meet our statutory reporting obligations. This report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. It also serves to disseminate information to the public as a reporting tool to help citizens assess government operations.

**BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM**  
STATE AUDITOR

December 2, 1998

**COLUMBIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Columbia County, Washington**  
**January 1, 1995 Through December 31, 1997**

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**Independent Auditor's Report On Internal Control Structure Used In  
Administering Federal Financial Assistance Programs**

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Board of Supervisors  
Columbia County Conservation District  
Dayton, Washington

We have audited the financial statements of the Columbia County Conservation District, Columbia County, Washington, as of and for the years ended December 31, 1997, 1996 and 1995, and have issued our report thereon dated December 2, 1998.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the provisions of OMB Circular A-128, *Audits of State and Local Governments*. Those standards and OMB Circular A-128 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the District's internal control structure in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements and to report on the internal control structure in accordance with OMB Circular A-128. This report addresses our consideration of internal control structure policies and procedures relevant to compliance with requirements applicable to federal financial assistance programs. We have addressed internal control structure policies and procedures relevant to our audit of the financial statements in a separate report dated December 2, 1998.

The management of the District is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of internal control structure policies and procedures. The objectives of an internal control structure are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that:

- Assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition.
- Transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with the prescribed basis of accounting.
- Federal financial assistance programs are managed in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Because of inherent limitations in any internal control structure, errors, irregularities, or instances of noncompliance may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of the structure to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of the design and operation of policies and procedures may deteriorate.

For the purpose of this report, we have classified the significant internal control structure policies and procedures used in administering federal financial assistance programs in the following categories:

- **Accounting Controls**
  - Cash receipts
  - Cash disbursements
- **General Requirements**
  - Political activity
  - Civil rights
  - Federal financial reports
  - Allowable costs/cost principles
- **Specific Requirements**
  - Types of services
  - Matching, level of effort, earmarking
  - Reporting
- **Claims For Advances And Reimbursements**
- **Amounts Claimed Or Used For Matching**

For all of the applicable internal control structure categories listed above, we obtained an understanding of the design of relevant policies and procedures and determined whether they have been placed in operation, and we assessed control risk.

The following internal control structure categories were determined to be insignificant to federal financial assistance programs:

- **Accounting Controls**
  - Receivables
  - Accounts payable
  - Purchasing and receiving
  - Payroll
  - Inventory control
  - Property, plant, and equipment
  - General ledger
- **General Requirements**
  - Davis-Bacon Act
  - Cash management
  - Relocation assistance and real property acquisition
  - Drug-Free Workplace Act
  - Administrative requirements, including subrecipient monitoring
- **Specific Requirements**
  - Eligibility
  - Special requirements

During the year ended December 31, 1997, the District had no major federal financial assistance programs and expended 53 percent of its total federal financial assistance under the following nonmajor federal financial assistance program: BPA Creek Restoration Project 97AP36266.

We performed tests of controls, as required by OMB Circular A-128, to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and operation of internal control structure policies and procedures that we considered relevant to

preventing or detecting material noncompliance with specific requirements, general requirements, and requirements governing claims for advances and reimbursements, and amounts claimed or used for matching that are applicable to the aforementioned nonmajor program. Our procedures were less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on these internal control structures policies and procedures. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Our consideration of the internal control structure policies and procedures used in administering federal financial assistance would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that noncompliance with laws and regulations that would be material to a federal financial assistance program may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control structure and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

This report is intended for the information of management and the Board of Supervisors and to meet our statutory reporting obligations. This report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. It also serves to disseminate information to the public as a reporting tool to help citizens assess government operations.

**BRIAN SONNTAG, CGFM**  
STATE AUDITOR

December 2, 1998